

**UDRMP Preferred Alternative Meeting Notes
3-17-03**

Present:, Brian Ferry, Joanie DuFourd, Dick DuFourd, Jerry Cordova, Glen Ardt, Bill McCaffrey, Ed Faulkner, Bill Fockler, Martin Winch, Nancy Gilbert, Russ Frost, Bob Davison, Brent Fenty, Sarah Thomas, Bill Zelenka, Ann Holmquist Alan Ungar, Kerrie Wallace, Jerry Elliot, Steve Jorgenson (pre session only).

BLM: Mollie Chaudet, Bill Dean, Ryan Franklin, , Keith Brown, Ron Gregory, Greg Currie, Steve Castillo, Teal Purrington, Mike Williams, Phil Paterno, Michelle McSwain

Team focusing on lands met before the main meeting.

Items discussed:

La Pine

Provide for future airport and sewage effluent disposal
Continue to provide for recreation at Rosland and between Rosland and BLM to the South.

ODOT will have ROW for future HWY realignment
Community Expansion area N. of airport designation is not expected to have industrial development
May not be needed for industrial needs, recreational use is OK, area to south expected to be for industrial use

Agreement: Contine openspace/parks and provide for recreational use compatible with future community uses and transportation facilities (n of runway protection zone).

Redmond:

Provide sufficient acreage for predictable and secure future industrial expansion.
Provide for future regional trail opportunities along North Unit Canal.
Provide for native vegetation “transition”between BLM wildlanes and urban development
Community Expansion vs z-2 designation- N. of Eagle Crest
Z-2 may be used for block up of travel corridors for wildlife.

Agreement: Keep 500’ buffer within the BLM lands,private lands not required to provide buffer/

—don’t require open space for rest of Northern Area Community Expansion Area (Canal to Redmond N. of 126)

Could city manage the trail corridor?

Work on MOU between county, BLM, City for Management of the future Community expansion lands to preserve trail qualities, eliminate dumping

Overall:

Keep in mind the “urban-rural” distinction—where we are providing uses adjacent to urban areas we balance with a lighter hand elsewhere.

Reduction of Community Expansion areas already provide some buffer.

Agreement:

Support landscape plans that would include native vegetation and fencing as necessary.

Revisit Z-2 to emphasize what we are willing to “give up”

Develop specific objectives for Z-2 lands

Identify Z-2 lands that are “trading blocks” and describe objective.

Main Meeting

Mollie-Wants agreement on key concepts, develop details in separate work groups

Intro to Vegetation presentation.

Issue: How to manage Juniper Old growth vs. Juniper outside of historic range.
Hydro benefits to reduce juniper but concern about private land uses if changes increase existing range of special status species. Manage on broad scale vs limited ACEC protection

Review purpose of and criteria for ACECs.

Vegetation Management Presentation --Steve Castillo

Steve passed out the following information that outlined options for modifying Alternative 6 for managing Old Growth Juniper (3/13/03)

The intent of the following is to provide management guidelines for the area as a whole plus specific, more restrictive guidance within proposed ACECs. The “options listed apply only to what areas would be selected for Old Growth ACECs or as in option 3 identification of the same areas as option 2 as old growth emphasis areas with the same standards and guidelines but without the formal designation of ACEC.

General Old-Growth Juniper Woodland Management

- Emphasize protecting health and integrity of old-growth woodlands
- Actively restore and enhance old woodland values
- Land uses and projects would consider old-growth values and incorporate reasonable mitigation to protect and enhance values.
- Some net loss may occur in some areas for land exchange, new ROWs, and other projects.

- Evaluation of proposed projects/activities would include the following factors: 1) quality of potentially affected old woodlands, 2) relative importance of the proposal, and 3) a full range of location options, including non-BLM land.
- Allow more harvest opportunities for juniper boughs and hobby/furniture wood

Old-Growth Woodland Management within Proposed ACECs

- No activities or land uses would be allowed that would affect the values for which the ACEC was designated
- Surface mining, new roads, and new utility corridors would generally not be allowed
- No net loss policy in effect for land exchanges/transfers (Land Tenure Zone 1)
- Highlights “best” examples of the old woodland type
- Highest priority for restoration/enhancement treatments
- Emphasizes non-motorized recreation
- Potential interpretive/education projects
- Highlights resource values for longer-term protection and funding

Option 1 – Add “Cline Buttes ACEC” with modified boundary (south of Hwy 126).

Option 2 – Add “Old-Growth Woodlands ACEC” with ~5 smaller units

Option 3 – Add “Old-Growth Woodlands Emphasis Areas” (also ~5 units) with management standards/guidelines same as with ACECs but without ACEC designation.

Steves presentation included the following discussion

What are parameters for OG treatments?

Mechanical, and prescribed fire, to mimic conditions of 150 years ago

Commercial Forestry

Bough collection

Furniture wood e. of 27

LaPine—retain commercial forest designation, focus on fire protection remove less than 10” indiameter

Juniper woodlands manage with service contract

What are differences in treating og in current vs. historic range?

Across entire range 30% of planning area

3-5% of west is og juniper

recent years have eliminated harvest of og juniper

Alternatives proposed intended to ensure that they do not adversely affect OG

Existing ACECs with OG, Badlands, pecks milkvetch, Horse Ridge and Powell Butte RNA's

Option 2 1 ACEC with 5 Units 2 in Cline Buttes, Alalfa ACEC, Huntington Rd, //

Provide Broad protections without use of ACECS, s of Powell Buttes.

Questions:

Would Powell Buttes RNA be 5th OG management area?

Could you include new growth as w/ screening for areas where ohv use would be permitted within og areas?.

Did BLM attend juniper utilization workshop? No

Is there need for ACECs to protect OG if there is significant OG east of 27

Veg group--McCraffrey, Winch, Castillo, Holmquist, D. Duford, Frost.

Questions:

What is the advantage of utilizing ACECs?

Difference from Alt 6—Create large ACEC in Cline Buttes area?

Cline buttes OG area different than other areas because there are currently higher use levels. Are standards the same or different for each area. OG includes different communities

Alt 6 -- Motorized use may occur s of 126 and w of barr rd. E of barr rd dlosed. Separate motorized and non motorized trails.

Concern that designation of OG juniper ACEC would eliminate OHV use in area.

ACECs restrict future management actions.

Less flexibility for designation of mining and roads

Proposal: Provide OG juniper ACEC but manage in way that allows diverse uses , mining and OHV use.

General vs. protecting best of the best

ACEC for JUOC-limits new mining options.
Less flexibility for designation of mining roads
Option 2 designate representative important og habitat within the area
Primary management focus
Not foreclose recreation or mining if not in direct conflict w/og management.

Option—Combine the general (conservation) approach with a specific—best of the best approach ((5 smaller emphasis areas) ACECs
What are criteria?

Proposal-Designate as old growth emphasis areas or ACECs?

Questions:

Can you make mineral materials sites ACEC?—No.

Is there any evidence to show that local og woodlands being at risk?

Less because of management of private lands.

Loss due to illegal activities

Heavy use, dumping

What are issues? What are goals?

Questions about options 2 and 3 (ACECs vs. Emphasis areas

Is there good reason for not emphasizing ACECs

How will the designation type affect military use?

Include exception for military (based on ohv management open, limited, closed)

Are there studies specifically documenting a reduction or loss of old growth juniper on public lands?

Will increasing population and public land uses pose a threat to old growth stands?

Some threats to old growth have been mitigated

Problem with the vagueness of the options.

Kind of veg management

Impact on rec

Impact on roads and military

Does Cline Buttes need more protection?

Fears

If no ACEC then you don't know what you get. Will old growth emphasis provide the same level of certainty of management as with ACEC. Option 3 new category —no one will know what it means, and how will emphasis be managed-Real, effective, and recognized.

Developing ACECs or emphasis may affect ability to extract needed mineral resources that have limited availability within central Oregon.

ACEC too restrictive. May preclude existing uses, e.g., military, mining. May set stage for additional restrictions or special designations.

Management guidelines for General management are too ambiguous to know how they will be managed.

Not enough difference between 2&3 to reflect “no net loss” from z-2 lands

Not enough information to make decisions.

Don’t need information just need to know values we want to protect

Emphasis areas and ACECs not legally equivalent.

Concern about superimposing OGJU ACEC on top of Existing Pecks Milkvetch ACEC.

Is there anything inconsistent between managing for OG juniper vs. pecks milkvetch.

Agreement on general conservation approach

Economics group felt that the general conservation approach was sufficient to protect Old Growth characteristics without additional ACEC or Emphasis areas

General Conservation + emphasis area

Rec, esthetics felt that general conservation approach plus additional emphasis areas would be sufficient to protect OG.

Does not agree

Ecosystem team felt that Legal Status of ACEC was needed in addition to general conservation approach.

What is preventing agreement?:

Ambiguity of restrictions

Is there a need for more regulation.

Suggestion that we wait until Thursday, when all of the suggested changes can be captured and a “big picture” shown to the group, alleviate the fears.

Some Observations

Focus attention on specific value

Plenty of mechanisms in place to protect woodlands right now

Difficult to figure out how different the management would really be

General Management would be a conservation emphasis
Specific (ACEC or Emphasis Area) would have a protection emphasis

Boundaries (Cline Butte was the area in question) established based on being locatable

Pecks Milkvetch ACEC –defers grazing every other year.

Grazing Discussion

Teal presented the following information in a handout that describes a proposal for modify Alternative 6 for grazing to meet the concerns expressed by the various interests

Current Alternative 6

The “Demand” factor is applied such that grazing is allowed only in areas of “High Demand” in the “rural” area. Grazing is allowed at any “Demand” level in the “urban” areas. Note: Rural in this instance includes areas south of Prineville Reservoir, south and east of Dodds Road, east of Johnson Ranch Road, west of State Route 27, and south and east of (but not including) the Powell Buttes. The “Demand” factor takes into account:

1. Closed range
2. Residential zoning
3. Busy roads
4. Recreational use
5. Missing fences in closed range or around new housing developments

The “Conflict” factor is applied in this alternative, but at the highest level. That is, the acceptable level of “conflict” is high, therefore grazing is not discontinued anywhere using this factor in this alternative. The “Conflict” factor takes into account the first three items from the list above: 1. Closed range, 2. Residential zoning, and 3. Busy roads.

Options to modify Alternative 6

Note that some of these items were developed at our March 4 meeting, and some of them are more recent suggestions from subcommittee members and BLM staff.

1. **Lower the allowable Conflict level**, so that grazing is discontinued in High Conflict areas, also maybe in Moderate Conflict areas.
2. **Lower the Demand requirements**, so that we allow grazing in Moderate and High Demand areas, not just High Demand areas
3. **Apply the Demand criteria to the urban areas**, too, not just the rural areas
4. **Use actions other than discontinuance of grazing to resolve issues**, for example require more patrols, better fences, etc
5. **Create “Grass Banks”** when permittees relinquish permits, and/or when conflicts are too high under current management. These areas would remain

available for grazing, but on a sporadic basis to provide flexibility to rest other areas and help accomplish management objectives (e.g.: post-fire seedling recovery).

6. **Allow voluntary permit relinquishment.** Place these permits in modified non-use status (grass bank) until next planning cycle.
7. Don't discontinue grazing unless permittee **voluntarily relinquishes permit.**
8. **Consider "vacant" status** (no identified permittee, and non-use for several years) as an indicator of potential conflict.
9. **Consider size of allotment** as an indicator of potential conflict.
10. **Consider ACECs and WSAs** in allotments as indicators of potential conflict.
11. **Consider conflicts with wildlife** as indicators of potential conflict.
- 12.

Discussion

- Which of the above options do we all agree are worth looking at?
- Are there additional options we haven't yet listed?
- How do we combine the various options into a preferred alternative?
- Suggestion: Start by agreeing on a method to estimate, for each allotment, the potential risk of "Conflict" or probability for problems. Consider which factors should be included in the equation. Then discuss the options for how to reduce problems in those allotments that rate high (discontinue grazing vs. grass banks vs. ?).
- Clarification: When we say "discontinue," we mean "discontinue for the life of the plan," NOT discontinue permanently. We do not have the authority in this plan to discontinue grazing permanently.

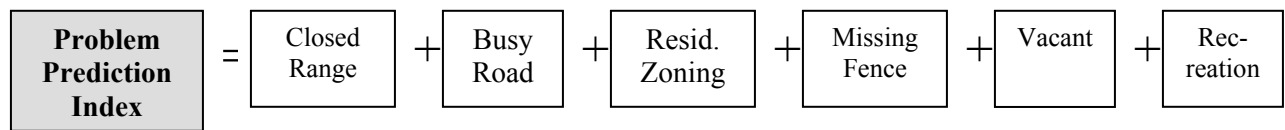
An example of how we could estimate potential risk of conflict

Combine "Demand" and "Conflict" criteria into one formula, add some of the other factors suggested above, and call it the "Problem Predictor" index or some such. Use the following assumptions:

- There are a variety of indicators that can tell us how likely we are to encounter problems (conflicts) in a particular allotment.
- We can create a systematic way to estimate the potential risk for problems in each allotment
- The actual amount of problems that occur may or may not reach the predicted problem level, depending on permittee's diligence in patrolling allotment for open gates and cut fence, BLM's ability to control uses and reduce illegal activities, and other factors. The prediction is just an educated guess.

Here's one way we could estimate the "Problem Predictor" for each allotment. Score 0 to 100 (100 being high risk) for each of the factors in boxes below. See attached worksheet

for how the allotments rated using this scoring method.



Discussion

- Have we included the important factors? Have we included un-important factors?
- Should we add in a factor: “livestock have been found to be contributing to the failure to meet Standards for Rangeland Health on majority of allotment” ?
- Are some factors weighted too heavily in the equation? Are some not weighted enough?
- Is there a different way we could estimate potential risk of problems?

An example of how we could reduce the chance of problems occurring

Use the above formula to estimate areas at high risk for problems (conflicts). The highest possible score (most likely to have problems) would be 600. Take following steps:

1. Discontinue grazing in allotments at the very top of the list, for example those with scores over 300. These are the allotments with the highest probability of having problems. We would take this step whether the permit was voluntarily relinquished or not.
2. For scores that indicate the risk of problems is high but not extremely high (maybe say scores 100 - 300), we might assume that permittees and BLM can make efforts to keep actual conflict levels lower than the predicted conflict level. For these allotments, grazing would be allowed, but we would develop an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) to identify and address potential problems (example: install cattleguards at problem gates; inspect boundary fence daily, gates twice a day).
3. Voluntary permit relinquishment: If the allotment has a high potential risk of problems (say scores higher than 200), and the permittee says it's not worth the trouble (and relinquishes the permit), we would discontinue grazing on the allotment. If the permit is relinquished and the score is 100-200, place the allotment into “Grass Bank” status. Prepare AMP to address potential conflicts. Any relinquished permits where the allotment scores less than 100 would become available immediately to other qualified applicants.
4. As conditions change (new roads, changes in open/closed range, designated recreation areas), the BLM would re-score allotments, and take action if the score exceeds one of the triggers listed above.

Discussion

- Where exactly should we draw the line for when we would discontinue grazing? (example above used score of 300 or more). Should we draw the line lower (discontinue grazing in more areas), or higher (don't discontinue anywhere)?
- What do you think about using the “Grass Bank” approach?

- What should we do when a permittee voluntarily relinquishes a permit?

Options to Modify Alt 6

1. Lower allowable "Conflict level"
2. Lower "Demand" Requirement
3. Apply demand in urban areas, too
4. Use actions other than discontinuing grazing
5. Create Grass Banks"
6. Allow voluntary permit relinquishment
7. Discontinue grazing only if ↑
8. Consider additional factors as indicators of conflict
 - a. "Vacant" status
 - b. size of allotment (# of AUMs)
 - c. ACEC, WSA
 - d. Wildlife Concerns

Teal presented the following information during her presentation

How can we estimate if we are likely to have conflicts? The following illustrates the factors to be considered and how they would be scored.

Factors	Score basis
Closed range	Miles of boundary and roads/ aum
Residential Zoning	Miles of boundary/AUM
Busy Roads	mi. of busy, 45 mi. of roads through or adjacent to allotment /aum
Recreation	Miles of rec trails, need for cattle guards Does not include rec preferred
Missing fences	Closed range /no fence between pub and pvt. Land. Vacant allotment #mi/aums
Vacant Allotments	Vacant 100/occupied 0
Rangeland S& Gs	Fail to meet=100
Completed AMP	Not clear how to rate
New factors (by team at meeting)	
Wildlife use areas	
How important is allotment to permittee	
Special Area Designations	
Land Tenure	
Demand by others for allotment	

What should we do to reduce conflicts in the areas they are most likely?

Options (use one or severeral in combination)

1. Require increased fence/gate patrol
2. Install cattleguards
3. discontinue grazing for life of the plan
4. Put area into "Grass Bank"

Additional options

Change allotment boundaries instead of discontinuing
Willing permittees to relinquish allotments

Modify season of use

Tasks for group

Identify additional criteria for conflict.

Weight

Identify additional options to reduce conflict

Concerns:

Concern about ambiguity of criteria.

If permittee gives up allotment should not retire allotment if there are people interested in allotment.

Is there an overlap between special management areas and recreation?

Include “cost” factors for development of range land---is currently in evaluation through rangeland S&Gs, fences, others.

Different ways of looking at problem

Econ

Combine conflict matrix with eco factors and demand
Develop conflict matrix

Weigh “conflict separate from demand
Use to develop priorities for management
Use matrix/scoring as a consideration-not just X or Y
Use more as a qualitative tool.
Don’t rely on # precisely.

Need to determine options when high conflict

Look at options for how willing permittee can relinquish permits.

Rangeland Standards and guides not appropriate for scoring because not enough allotments have been evaluated.

If done could help set priorities
Can modify season of use, length of use, AUMs to resolve problems

Recreation

Location of allotment relative to recreation sites, urban vs. rural

Grazing Factors

Does grazing overlap wildlife winter range?

How important are permittee values?

If allotment is vacant are there other applicants?

Special Area Designations

Clarify meaning and importance of “busy roads”

Is this rationale for elimination?

Affecting livelihood

Match up with Land Tenure designations?

Need understanding of each factor before a weight can be assigned.

Additional Options

Change allotment boundaries instead of retiring

Willing permittees to relinquish allotments.

Modify season of use.

Next meeting: Grazing focus team will continue at noon, March 20, in the District manager’s conference room, Prineville BLM.

Full Preferred Alternative Subcommittee will meet in the large conference room, Prineville BLM from 1 to 5 PM, Thursday March 20.